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Dissemination:
cc:

Chief, Africa Desk
AM Legation Tangier

Subject:

Mario PIRELLI

Date and Place of
Report

25 July, 1947 []

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Origin

14 July 1947, []

Evaluation:

B-1

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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On 3 December 1946 Mario PIRELLI came to our office to apply for a job in U.S. Intelligence. He said he was born in Tunis on 23 June, 1910 of Italian parents and had an Italian passport; that he was educated in Munich and worked for the Italian Embassy in Berlin as a translator. PIRELLI is slight of build, about 5'4" tall, fair complexioned; speaks perfect German, French, Russian, Spanish, Arabic and has a good knowledge of English.

PIRELLI said he was connected with Robert G. CARRUTHERS (nicknamed "ROBIN") British, on a project to take a movie in the south of Morocco which was to be called "Search for Atlantis." PIRELLI showed us a letter addressed to CARRUTHERS by the Communist Party of London in which CARRUTHERS was addressed as "comrade." CARRUTHERS left Tangier some time in November 1946 for Algiers where he married Rose ELLENBY. They are now in England.

PIRELLI further stated that he worked for counter-intelligence corps in the western part of Austria late in 1945 and early in 1946. He said he would be glad to help "American intelligence" in any way. He is now living at 4 Rue Malaga, Tangier.

SOAKER reported that PIRELLI has been recognized by some of the Tangier residents who were here before the war as having been a German agent in Tangier in 1938 under another name. At that time he worked for the German Intelligence service under Dr. Gunnar HOLTZ, then chief of German Intelligence at Tangier. HOLTZ had a Danish passport. As Germans were not allowed to enter Tangier on account of the Versailles Treaty, SOAKER said, Mario PIRELLI had an Italian passport although in reality he was a German subject.

In 1937 PIRELLI went from Berlin to Moscow where he remained several months and then came to Tangier in 1938. SOCK, who played the piano in an orchestra of girls at the Cafe Central, Petit Soco, during the war, recognized PIRELLI. SOCK said that at that time he had a beard and that his name began with a "W" but that at the moment she could not think of the name as it has been quite some time ago. She further stated that he came into the Cafe almost every night demanding German songs, and that on 3 September 1939, on the evening of his departure for Germany, he left a note for the orchestra which read "Heil Hitler, I go to the Fatherland to perform my duty."

PIRELLI served as interpreter for the SICHERHEITSDIENST and did political and espionage work for the Germans. When the victory of the Allies was becoming evident, PIRELLI, who is an opportunist, refused to join the Fascist Italian group; instead, he preferred to be placed in an internment camp to await the victory of the Allies. At the time of the German capitula-

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tion, PIRELLI somehow was given a job as interpreter with the American Military Government. After being with the AMG for a while, he began to fear complaints from victims of the NAZI regime against whom he acted in his police investigations, and felt that the time had come for him to get away.

X PIRELLI then came to Tangier in 1946. He first contacted Pierre Louis LA PORTE and Robert de LA SALIE, French people, alleged smugglers, who worked for the Vichy regime. They stole his idea and created a film association in Tangier, but did not admit PIRELLI into the firm. After this experience, PIRELLI tried to contact other people having money enough to give him support, and consequently contacted (Ignacio ?) MARTINEZ MONTEZ PEREZ, a well known Spaniard who had made a fortune in smuggling with a ship under the British flag at Gibraltar, the AGUILA (See XN T-111). The only thing that interested MARTINEZ were empty film cases. His idea was to replace the negatives in the sealed cases with precious contraband, such as diamonds, and thus be able to smuggle them very easily between one country and another. PIRELLI got into difficulty with MARTINEZ who severed his connections.

For the third time PIRELLI looked for another partner for his Tangier film association and found Roger BERNARD, a Swiss, whose mother gave him enough money to start a business in Tangier. PIRELLI thought that BERNARD, who was young and without much experience, was just the man on whom he could rely for his film association. They formed a company called SYMPHONIE. BERNARD told SOAKER that he works with a big jeweler in Nice and another one at Cannes in smuggling jewels. BERNARD goes to France on the KOUTOUBIA frequently and PIRELLI escorts him to the boat and meets him on his return.

At the American Red Cross dance on 3 July 1947, PIRELLI took photos of all the important people and (A-1) searched particularly for COLLINS who was not there but whose family was seated at a table with RIDER and many others.

It was PIRELLI, the perennial informer, who first reported the ring of counterfeiters in Tangier on 10 July, 1947 (See XNT-131).

Comment We should appreciate any information you may be able to get for us on PIRELLI, especially on his activities with the AMG.